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(54) System and method for integrated circuit design

(57) A software suite supporting a methodologies-based approach for the development of large scale integrated circuits. Platforms are configured as web servers (2503) so that they may be easily accessed by designers in widely-varying physical locations and with widely-varying computer workstation capabilities.

A suite of methodologies is defined for each block (101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111) of an integrated circuit (100). This suite is defined by expert designers, through the use of an interface, who enter information regarding the steps and tools (2300-2306) to be used during design of the blocks (101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111). The expert designer provides whatever documentation is deemed appropriate to aid in completion of the steps.

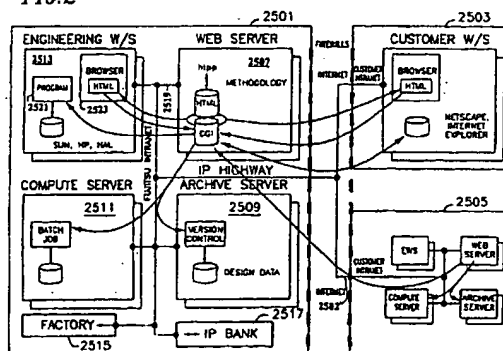
For each block (101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111) within an integrated circuit (100), an expert designer attaches a methodology or set of methodologies in an ordered fashion to a block (101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111). These methodologies are then used by block designers to design and implement the block.

The invention provides extensive reporting capability regarding the status of development of each block, as well as metrics pertaining to the implementation of the design. These metrics include, for example, information pertaining to the run time of various tools, the time taken to accomplish each methodology, as well as each step in that methodology.

The invention also includes a common software interface (CSI). The CSI defines a number of functions which are to be supported by each tool (2300-2306)

used within the system. The functions allow other tools within the system to access data or information from other tools.

FIG. 2





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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 August 2003	Examiner Radev, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
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